United Nations S/2000/308

# Security Council

Distr.: General
13 April 2000
English
Original: Arabic

## Identical letters dated 11 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 10 April 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq, as represented by the maintenance of the unlawful no-flight zones, and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 202 sorties over the towns and villages of Iraq in the period from 1 to 7 April 2000 (82 of them from Saudi Arabia, 62 from Kuwait and 58 from Turkey), as a result of which 14 people were killed and 19 were injured. The Minister further urges the Security Council to intervene with a view to halting these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rokan Hama **Al-Anbuge**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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## Annex to the identical letters dated 11 April 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 202 sorties in the period from 1 to 7 April 2000. Eighty-two of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 62 were from Kuwait and 58 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder, and 14 people were killed and 19 were injured as a result.

1. In the northern region 58 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1005 hours on 4 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Mosul, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1018 hours on 5 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Aqrah, Amadiyah, Baibo, Mosul, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1255 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1025 hours on 6 April 2000, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 22 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Baibo, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1305 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 144 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1020 hours on 2 April 2000, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six missions, four of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Ashbajah and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1100 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0855 hours on 3 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 18 of

them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Lasaf and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1005 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1250 hours on 4 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and Tornado aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Amarah, Jassan, Wasit, Hayy, Shaykh Sa'd, Lasaf and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1555 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0855 hours on 6 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 48 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Amarah, Jalibah, Wasit, Hayy, Artawi and Salman areas and attacked civilian and services-related installations, with the result that 14 civilians were killed and 19 were injured. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1555 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1235 hours on 7 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Basrah, Nasiriyah, Salman, Artawi, Jalibah, Taqtaqanah South and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, urges the Security Council to perform its assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent and sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq